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July 1, 2005

Honorable Vernon A. Williams  
Surface Transportation Board  
1925 K Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20423-0001

**Re: Surface Transportation Board ("STB") Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No. 422X); The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company ("BNSF") Abandonment in Snohomish, Washington**

Dear Secretary Williams:

By order served July 2, 2004, the Board issued an order stating: "Pursuant to the provisions of 49 CFR 1152.29(e)(2), BNSF shall file a notice of consummation with the Board to signify that it has exercised the authority granted and fully abandoned the line. If consummation has not been effected by BNSF's filing of a notice of consummation by July 2, 2005, and there are no legal or regulatory barriers to consummation, the authority to abandon will automatically expire."

Winter weather conditions and conflicting scheduling problems have hampered the ability to conduct salvage activities. Accordingly, BNSF requests an extension of the consummation deadline until December 31, 2005.

Please acknowledge receipt of this letter by date stamping the enclosed copy of this letter and returning it to me in the enclosed self-addressed stamped envelope.

Ten (10) additional copies of this letter are enclosed for the Board's use and distribution.

If you have any questions, please contact me at my direct number: (202) 295-4672.

Sincerely,

Sidney L. Strickland, Jr.  
SLS/js

cc: James Gallegos  
Jerry Johnson  
Richard Batie  
Dalen Wintermute